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United States GovernmentDepartment of Energy

memorandum

DATE: February 14, 2002

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: EM-21 (John Tseng, 301-903-4482)

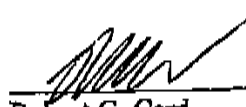
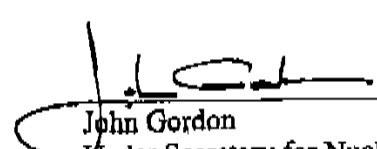
SUBJECT: Technical resources for disposition planning of surplus sealed radioactive sources

TO: Distribution

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you of a capability sponsored by the Office of Environmental Management (EM) to assist sites to inventory, characterize, and plan for the disposition of surplus nuclear materials, including surplus sealed radioactive sources. The Non-actinide Isotopes and Sealed Sources Management Group (NISSMG), established at the Albuquerque Operations Office, has the appropriate expertise to assist sites to study disposition options for surplus non-actinide isotopes and sealed radioactive sources. For example, reuse of sealed sources by other programs or at other sites is possible but often overlooked. Frequently, we have been able to avoid costly disposal activities by recycling or reusing the sealed source.

The NISSMG, has been successful in recent years in assisting sites to inventory and characterize surplus nuclear materials, offering technical recommendations and providing implementation assistance. For example, the NISSMG worked with experts from the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) to assist Mound in transporting Iodine (^{131}I) ampoules to ORNL for recovery of the valuable radioisotope protactinium (^{231}Pa) for research, resulting in a savings of approximately \$200K for Mound. NISSMG was successful in assisting Mound to de-inventory all major inventory of surplus nuclear materials. NISSMG has also provided recommendations to all EM closure sites. Working with experts from ORNL, they have also provided de-inventorying assistance to the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

If you are interested in assistance by NISSMG to develop a disposition strategy for your sealed sources, please contact Mr. David G. Huizenga at (202) 586-5151.


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